

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 26087 081525Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06
EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 H-01 SP-02 L-03 DHA-05 PA-01
PRS-01 NSC-05 SS-15 AF-10 /102 W
-----014191 082257Z /70

R 081519Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8277
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, PORG, SOPN, UNESCO
SUBJECT: UNESCO: MASS MEDIA - GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING

REF: (A) STATE 208528; (B) STATE 175193; (C) PARIS 25853

1. PERMDEL REALIZED THAT DEPT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED REFTEL (A) BEFORE REPLYING TO SAN SALVADOR IN REFTEL (B), ON CURRENT HAPPENINGS IN MASS MEDIA FIELD, BUT WOULD LIKE TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND INTERESTED PARTIES THAT (FORMERLY) SO-CALLED "COMMISSION OF WISEMEN" (PER REFTEL (A), PARA 4) HAS RECENTLY AND OFFICIALLY BEEN ENDOWED WITH TITLE OF "INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS".

2. WE BELIEVE IT ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP RECORD STRAIGHT THAT WHILE USG HAS SUPPORTED ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS COMMISSION, THE USG WILL NOT, REPEAT, NOT PARTICIPATE IN ITS PROCEEDINGS. RATHER, A PRIVATE US CITIZEN,
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ELIE ABEL, HAS BEEN INVITED TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY, A CONDITION WHICH WILL APPLY - TECHNICALLY - TO ALL 16 INDIVIDUALS DRAWN FROM THE VARIOUS GEO-POLITICAL REGIONS OF THE WORLD. PERMDEL BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PAY HOMMAGE TO THIS CONCEPT.

3. FINALLY, WE BELIEVE THAT PRACTICE OF POINTING OUT DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA AS "SOVIET-INSPIRED" AS A PART OF GENERAL BRIEFINGS ON MASS MEDIA (E.G., REFTEL (B), PART B, PARA 1) SHOULD BE AVOIDED, EXCEPT PERHAPS WITH AUDIENCES WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY RECEPTIVE TO THIS HARDLINE VERBIAGE. IT IS TRUE THAT AFTER HAVING BEEN FIRST PROPOSED TO UNESCO BY ALVA MYRDAL, THE SOVIETS STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS EFFORT FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES. NONETHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS CHARACTERIZATION HAS BEEN AMPLY USED, AND THAT THE DRAFT DECLARATION'S FULL TITLE GIVES CLEAR INDICATION OF SOVIETS' RELATIONSHIP TO ISSUE. BUT SOVIET INTERESTS ASIDE, THE MAJORITY OF UNESCO'S MEMBERS, INCLUDING MANY THIRD WORLD STATES WHO HAVE NO PARTICULAR SYMPATHY FOR THE SOVIETS, ARE SOLD ON IDEA OF HAVING A DECLARATION WHICH DRAWS ATTENTION TO RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL AS RIGHTS IN THE INFORMATION FIELD. IN OUR VIEW, BEATING "SOVIET-INSPIRED" IDEA TO DEATH IN OUR TALKS WITH THESE THIRD WORLD STATES AND OTHERS, WOULD SEEM TO BE TARRING THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE DESIRABILITY OF SOME STATEMENT ON "RESPONSIBILITIES" WITH SAME BRUSH AS THAT APPLIED TO SOVIETS. THIS MIGHT GIVE RISE TO IDEA (SO OFTEN HAMMERED ON BY CHINESE) THAT THIRD WORLD INTERESTS AGAIN FALLING VICTIM TO "BIG POWER RIVALRY", THIS TIME WITH US AS CULPRIT. WITH VERY CAREFUL SECRETARIAT PREPARATION TO KEEP LID ON THIS ISSUE, AND CONSEQUENT GOOD

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CHANCES TO ARRIVE AT A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION AT 20TH GC, IT WOULD SEEM AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, THAT WE CAN DOWN-PLAY THE RHETORIC.

HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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